

Message Text

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ACTION M-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ADP-00 DEAE-00 SNM-02 SS-07 BAL-03

PER-05 ABF-01 /032 W

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R 121256Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2756

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 4916

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, SNAR, AR.

SUBJECT: OPRED: DEA REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL CLERICAL
SUPPORT.

REFS: A) STATE 126954; B) BUENOS AIRES 4139.

1. EMBASSY HAS CONDUCTED INFORMAL AUDIT OF DEA OPERATIONS AND STAFFING REQUIREMENTS RELATED THERETO AS REQUESTED REFTEL A. WITH AMALGAMATION PUT INTO EFFECT JULY 1, DEA REGIONAL OFFICE, BUENOS AIRES, NOW HAS COMPLEMENT OF 13 AMERICAN (OF WHICH 7 ARE AGENTS, 1 OPERATIONS ANALYST, 2 ADMIN AND 3 SECRETARIAL) AND ONE FSL SECRETARY. AT PRESENT 2 POSITIONS ARE VACANT (AGENT AND ADMIN OFFICER) AND DEA HAS 2 DEPENDENTS ON TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT.

2. OUR AUDIT OF DEA SUPPORT OPERATIONS APPEARS TO JUSTIFY 2 ADDITIONAL AMERICAN CLERICAL POSITIONS IN TERMS OF FOLLOWING WORKLOAD BREAKDOWN:

A) REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR 10 DISTRICT OFFICES WITH 25 AGENTS;

B) VERY LARGE VOLUME OF PAPERWORK SINCE ALL CORRESPONDENCE ORIGINATING IN OR GOING TO SUB-OFFICES MUST PASS THROUGH BUENOS AIRES REGIONAL OFFICE;

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C) FISCAL SERVICES INVOLVING CLASSIFIED AND/OR

SENSITIVE OPERATIONS;

D) PURCHASE OF ITEMS PECULIAR TO DEA INVOLVING SENSITIVITY;

E) MONTHLY INFLUX OF 500-600 REPORTS OF INVESTIGATION FROM DEA OFFICES WORLDWIDE;

F) HUGE VOLUME OF FILING (BIO DATA CARDS, INVESTIGATION REPORTS, AGENTS DAILY ACTIVITY REPORTS, ETC.;

G) EQUALLY LARGE VOLUME TELEGRAPHIC TRAFFIC, E.G., JUNE CLASSIFIED TOTAL GROUPS 117,640 - UNCLASSIFIED GROUPS 33,980.

3. EXISTENCE OF BACKLOG HAD ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSED IN REFTEL B, AND IT IS ALSO CORRECT THAT BARO HAS BEEN OPERATING FOR OVER ONE YEAR WITH TEMPORARY PERSONNEL.

4. EMBASSY DOES NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE THAT DEA MERGER WILL, AT LEAST IN THE CASE OF RO, MAKE POSSIBLE SUFFICIENT IMPROVEMENT IN OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS TO ELIMINATE BACKLOG AND PROVIDE FOR ADEQUATE CONTINUED SUPPORT AT PRESENT STAFFINRHLEVEL, SINCE THE MERGER WILL ADD 6 CUSTOMS AGENTS TO THE EXISTING BNDD AGENT PERSONNEL REQUIRING SUPPORT FROM REGIONAL OFFICE. LOCAL EXISTING CUSTOMS COMPLEMENT IN BUENOS AIRES WILL ADD ONLY ONE AMERICAN SECRETARY TO SUPPORT STAFF.

5. SUITABLE CLERICAL CANDIDATES MENTIONED BY BNDD ARE DEPENDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY EMPLOYED ON TEMPORARY BASIS. EMBASSY ASUMES THEIR QUALIFICATIONS ARE APPROPRIATE.

6. EMBASSY IS CAPABLE OF MEETING ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR AUGMENTED STAFF ON ASSUMPTION THERE WILL BE NO RPT NO SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER WORKLOAD FACTORS FALLING DIRECTLY ON EMBASSY ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BUENOS04916
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730739/aaaabcdz.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION M
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 A) STATE 126954; B) BUENOS AIRES, 4139.
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Jan-2002 by phillir0>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2002 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OPRED: DEA REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL CLERICAL SUPPORT.
TAGS: OGEN, SNAR, AR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005